

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Commissioners

Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste. #679
Vancouver, Washington
March 12, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Chair: Morris Giesler

Vice Chair: Greg Whitson

Secretary: Mike Gibson

Meeting Called to order by Morris Giesler @ 1400

Roll Call: **[Bold script indicates presence at meeting]**

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #27
American Legion #44
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Legion #189
American Legion #208
American Veterans #6
DAV Chapter #4
Korean War Vet Assoc #321
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW #12028
Vietnam Vets #512

PRIMARY

Morris Giesler
Dixie Hotaling

Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson

Richard Alvarez
Frank Hyatt
Thomas Dombeck
Lou Basté
John Raynor
Roy Billings
Skip Bengé
Greg Whitson

ALTERNATE

Jerry Keen
James Resleff

Richard Langenbach
Jonathan Frederick

Benjamin Long
Thomas Kula
Robert Sumrill
Ron Brandon
Stephen Stetson
Bruce Maas

Joseph Fettig

Members at Large

Kevin Lawson

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley

GUESTS

Colleen Kuhn - HSC; Sandra Geary and Eric Carl - VA, Liz Johnston - AFRC, Eric Chastain, Judge Zimmerman, Shauna McCloskey and Deputy Officer Mike Polen - Veterans Court, George Golden, Donna Brandon, Darren Wertz

February 12, 2014 Meeting Minute

Bob Nichols moved to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Roy Billings and passed.

Editor's Note: Correction to both January and February meeting minutes to show that Robert Sumrill was in attendance.

Veterans Therapeutic Court (VTC) Update

Shauna McCloskey is the Substance Abuse and Therapeutic Court Coordinator and is trying to get volunteer veterans to help with this program. VTC started 3 years ago for justice involved veterans, a lot of DUI/Assault 4/Domestic Abuse – get veterans out of jail to urge them to go thru Veterans Court and get treatment. Primary reason to start program was to address the mental health PTSD, Anxiety, Depression and transition back into society. It is a year-long program and they come in and get monitored in “real life” time and get wrap around care. Judge presides over the head of it; but from a law enforcement point, Deputy Mike Long supervises home visits because misdemeanor charges don't have monitoring programs. Missing components for the last year is a Volunteer mentor that understands the culture, someone who will be able to help them with understanding by “having been there,” since there is a court team – the mentor that can address the issues and has been in the trenches but understands the court structure. In 2011, the court started the mentor program and developed the policy manual, but then a conflict of issue started because a volunteer had to issue some feedback to the court, and the person responsible for the mentors retired so VTC is attempting to get it started back up. The program has brochures, written materials but welcome some input on how to get the word out. Without a coordinator the program is a little ‘lost’ so volunteers, suggestions, input is needed.

Committee Reports for 2014

Policies and Procedures Committee: Dixie shared that the Policies and Procedures Committee would like to expand some aid to a broader base so the funds can be used. Bob Nichols stated that two of the denials were based on terms of service, he believes that based on the current state law that veterans should not be denied based on their length of service. This needs to be clarified with the county attorney and see if education, training is needed. Next Policy and Procedure meeting is 3-13-14 at 1 PM at Post 14.

Appeals Committee: Mike Gibson reported 1 approved, 0 denied. No appeals in February.

December Contractor Reports, County Fund Report, 2013 Annual Report

Samantha Whitley presented the month of January, Human Service Council gave assistance to 16 veterans, rent \$10K and food \$4K total of \$17,091.95 and 6 denials, Veterans Assistance Center saw 131 veterans visits, 15 needed assistance with filing a claim. There are 618 Volunteer hours at the center and 7.5 Community Outreach hours for a total value of \$14,192. The free clinic saw 7 veterans in January and did 4 extractions, 7 fillings, 11 x-rays \$2,515 in dental services provided, only billed the fund \$942.54. The January 2014 end balance for the Veterans Assistance Fund was \$430,635 dollars.

Old Business

Morris recruited volunteers for an Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Committee; Bruce Maas volunteered, and is working by himself on this, still looking for additional volunteers. For the Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee Bob Nichols is the only volunteer so far.

New Business

Morris brought in Elizabeth from the Armed Forces Reserve Center to give clarity to having a Resource Fair to have all veteran providers communicate to see who does what. This would be different from the Stand Down, bringing all the providers in for resource and referral (military side). Proposing June 18th, 11-3 and/or 1-4, for a Resource Fair at the Armed Forces Center: 15005 NE 65th St. It was suggested

that the Veterans Board meet out at the Armed Force Reserve Center in May. Morris asked for support for the Resource Fair this recommendation in the form of a Motion and also to let the Commissioners know that a meeting out at the facility is being requested. Motion made by Roy Billings, second by Joe Fettig, motion carried. Co-Chair for the Resource Fair will be Colleen.

Open Forum

Deborah and Roger Proctor will be giving an overview of their services at noon, 3-13-14 at the 40 et 8. Facilities are located at Annex Building in basement. Motion to adjourn was offered and granted.

Meeting adjourned at 1550 hours.

Next meeting: April 9th, 2014 @ 1400 hours